

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**  
For the  
City of Bisbee, Wastewater System Improvement Project

**PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is considering authorizing the award of a Border Environment Infrastructure Fund (BEIF) grant to the City of Bisbee for improvements to their wastewater collection system and replacement of their wastewater treatment plant. The proposed action is located within the City of Bisbee, Cochise County, Arizona (Figure 1). Bisbee is located in southern Cochise County, approximately 4.0 mi (6.4 km,) north of the U.S./Mexico border, and serves as the county seat of Cochise County. The City is comprised of three distinct population centers: Old Bisbee, Warren, and San Jose.

**PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION**

Presently the City is operating under a Consent Order issued by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) to address substantial inflow/infiltration (I/I) and effluent quality issues with the existing wastewater collection and treatment system. Additionally, EPA has issued a Finding of Violation and Notice for Compliance to the City to address discharge permit violations. The City is served by a collection system that varies widely in age and condition, and the majority of the system in the Old Bisbee and Warren areas of the City experiences excessive inflow/infiltration (I/I). The I/I condition results in sanitary sewer overflows and exceedance of treatment plant quantity and quality capacities, culminating in releases of raw or partially treated sewage to the environment. The City is proposing to repair approximately 112,000 linear feet of collection system, predominantly in the Old Bisbee and Warren areas of the City. Collection system improvements would involve either excavation replacement or internal rehabilitation.

Wastewater treatment is conducted at three separate facilities, one for each of the three population centers. The treatment facilities vary in age and condition, and the City has difficulty maintaining compliance with permits and current regulatory standards. The City is therefore proposing to build a new activated sludge wastewater treatment plant in San Jose with the capacity to treat 0.82 million gallons per day (mgd). Wastewater from all three population centers would be conveyed to that location for treatment. Under this alternative, the majority of the reclaimed water would be used to irrigate the Turquoise Valley Golf Course. During periods of low irrigation needs, excess water would be placed into Greenbush Draw near the Naco Highway Bridge approximately 0.5 mile south of Purdy Lane.

**ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES AND CONDITIONS**

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, EPA has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) that examines the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project in the U.S. After considering a wide range of regulatory, environmental (both natural and human) and socio-economic factors, the EA did not identify any significant impacts to the environment that would result from the implementation of this project.

**PUBLIC REVIEW**

The EA is on file, along with other project materials, and is available for public inspection at the EPA Region 9 office in San Francisco, California. Copies of the EA are also available for public review at the City of Bisbee Town Hall, at 118 Arizona St., Bisbee, AZ 85603, and the Public Library, 6 Main Street, Bisbee, AZ 85603. In addition, the EA will be posted on the EPA Region 9's website at <http://www.epa.gov/Region9/border/bisbee/index.html>

To obtain additional information about the project, please contact Doug Liden by email at: [liden.douglas@epa.gov](mailto:liden.douglas@epa.gov) or by calling (415) 972-3406.

Interested persons, including those who disagree with this proposal, may submit comments to EPA Region 9 within 30 calendar days from the date this document is issued. No administrative action will be taken on this proposed project prior to the expiration of this comment period, which ends June 4, 2003. Comments, via letter, fax or email, should be sent to Doug Liden at the address listed below.

Doug Liden (WTR-4)  
U.S. EPA, Region 9  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA. 94105  
Telephone: (415) 972-3406  
Fax: (415) 947-3537  
Email: [liden.douglas@epa.gov](mailto:liden.douglas@epa.gov)

After EPA assesses any comments received, those comments, EPA's responses, and this Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) will be forwarded to the Regional Administrator for review and signature. If the Regional Administrator signs this FNSI, it will not be recirculated for review but will be available to any individual upon request.

#### **FINDING**

After review of the EA and any comments received, EPA has determined that the proposed project will not have a significant impact on the environment and that an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared for this project.

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Wayne Nastri  
Regional Administrator

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Date